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**PENCE: PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION IS “MORALLY WRONG”**

**Washington, Jun 4, 2003** - WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Mike Pence today voted to ban the procedure known as “partial-birth abortion.” The bill is expected to pass the House later today. President Bush has said he will sign the measure.

Pence’s statement on the House floor follows:

“Partial-birth abortion: it is an antiseptic word for a barbaric procedure. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a supporter of abortion rights, described it accurately as ‘near infanticide.’

“The arguments for this bill are legion. They are also quite arguable. And we have heard many of those arguments today. We have heard the argument that our bill, as we believe, is superior to the Nebraska bill that has been rejected and struck down. We have heard the argument that our bill will pass Constitutional muster. We have heard the argument that this procedure is never medically necessary. In fact, the American Medical Association has said that it is ethically wrong saying that it is ‘never the only appropriate procedure.’

“But we can argue the medicine and we can argue the endorsements. What is not arguable is that this practice is inherently morally wrong. What is not arguable is that the practice of delivering a newborn child alive, feet first, and holding it in the birth canal squirming, while the back of its head is stabbed with a suction device is evil. That is not arguable.

“Today, we will render unlawful – or at least begin to render unlawful – what virtually every American knows in their heart is evil and morally wrong. That’s why the overwhelming majority of the American people rejects this practice and wants it banned in the United States. Justice has always been defined by how societies protect the innocent and punish those who do them harm.

“Of the innocent and defenseless, the Bible admonishes us that ‘whatsoever you do for the least of these, you do for me.’ Banning partial-birth abortion is the least we can do for the least of these.”

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